

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

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R 172100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2680

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

SAN SALVADOR ALSO FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

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TAGS: ECON, ELAB, SPOP, NU

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL HIGHLIGHTS, OCTOBER 1-14, 1973

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONCENTRATE
ON STUDY OF MEXICAN PLAN, EMPLOYMENT RECOVERS FROM
QUAKE, AND THE BIRTH RATE JUMPS NINE MONTHS AFTER.
END SUMMARY.

1. MEXICAN PLAN STUDIED: LITTLE ECONOMIC NEWS CAME
TO LIGHT IN THE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER AS BOTH THE
GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONCENTRATED ON EVALUATING
THE ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED IN THE MEXICAN PLAN FOR THE
RECONSTRUCTION OF MANAGUA. THE PRIVATE INITIATIVE
PANEL WHICH WAS FORMED EARLIER IN THE YEAR TO WORK WITH
THE MEXICANS PROMISED TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON
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THE PLAN TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE BY OCTOBER 22.

2. EMPLOYMENT: ACCORDING TO DATA RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE (INSS) EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANAGUA AREA IN JUNE HAD SURPASSED PRE-QUAKE LEVELS. THE NUMBER OF WORKERS COVERED BY INSS, BY SECTOR, ARE SHOWN BELOW:

	DEC. 72	JAN. 73	MAR. 73	JUNE 73
AGRICULTURE	640	727	666	612
MINES	26	33	21	23
MANUFACTURERS	18,167	16,664	15,529	16,515
ELECTRICITY,				
GAS & WATER	1,264	1,683	1,762	1,732
CONSTRUCTION	4,636	2,937	11,374	12,935
COMMERCE, REST-				
AURANTS & HOTELS	13,972	10,854	9,288	9,890
TRANSPORT	3,081	2,812	2,589	2,661
FINANCIAL INSTI-				
TUTIONS	3,662	3,274	3,249	3,341
SOCIAL SERVICES	15,955	14,982	15,062	16,031
OTHER	5	--	4	7
TOTAL	61,408	53,966	59,544	63,747

AS OF JUNE THE NUMBER OF WORKERS IN MANAGUA MAKING INSURANCE PAYMENTS HAD RISEN BY 2,339 OVER DECEMBER 1972. THE LARGEST GAIN IN EMPLOYMENT WAS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR WHICH GAINED 8,299 WORKERS (179 PERCENT INCREASE). THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, BY JUNE, WAS STILL EMPLOYING 4,092 LESS WORKERS (29 PERCENT DECREASE) THAN IN DECEMBER (WHEN EMPLOYMENT IN COMMERCE REACHES A SEASONAL HIGH), AND THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS DOWN 1,652 (9 PERCENT DECREASE). THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR HAS PROBABLY RECOVERED CONSIDERABLY RECENTLY AS 200 TO 300 STORES HAVE REOPENED SINCE JUNE. THE ABOVE DATA DO NOT INCLUDE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES NOR DO THEY SHOW EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS NOT COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY, INCLUDING MOST DOMESTIC AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS. THEY ARE A REVISION OF THE DATA REPORTED IN MANAGUA 3468.

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3. MANAGUA BIRTHS JUMP IN SEPTEMBER: MANAGUA'S ONLY FULLY OPERATIONAL HOSPITAL, VELEZ PAIZ, REPORTS THAT THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF BIRTHS PER DAY IN ITS MATERNITY WARD JUMPED FROM 25 IN AUGUST TO 40 IN SEPTEMBER, AN INCREASE OF 60 PERCENT. WHILE PART OF THIS INCREASE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FLOW OF RESIDENTS RETURNING TO MANAGUA, THE MORE GENERALLY ACCEPTED EXPLANATION

FOR THE BULK OF THE RISE IS AN INCREASE IN THE POST-
QUAKE CONCEPTION RATE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. THE
ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE BIRTHS IN PRIVATE CLINICS
OR HOMES, NOR ARE COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR 1972 AVAILABLE.
ONE PRACTICAL RESULT OF THE BABY BOOM HAS BEEN TO
GREATLY INCREASE THE BURDEN ON VELEZ PAIZ'S ALREADY
OVER-CROWDED FACILITIES: THREE AND FOUR BABIES, FOR
EXAMPLE, ARE NOW PACKED INTO INDIVIDUAL CRIBS AND
INCUBATORS. SUBSTANTIAL RELIEF IS NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL
THE TWO AID-FINANCED HOSPITALS ARE COMPLETED IN EARLY
1974.

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